



Federal Communications Commission

Common Carrier Bureau
Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

September 22, 1999

Miss Barbara N. Gibbons
12 -- 25 20th Street
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410-2307

RECEIVED

SEP 22 1999

FCC MAIL ROOM

Dear Miss Gibbons:

Thank you for your correspondence concerning the cost of long-distance service. The Commission will consider your comments in its proceeding regarding the pricing of low-volume long-distance service.

In that proceeding, the Commission is assessing the impact of certain charges—such as monthly, minimum long-distance fees; universal service charges; and the presubscribed interexchange carrier charge (PICC)—on customers who make few, or no, interstate long-distance calls. The Commission is doing so as part of its efforts to ensure that all Americans benefit from a robust and competitive communications marketplace. We hope that this inquiry will help us better understand and manage the effect of these charges on consumers.

We will add your correspondence to the official record of this proceeding. It will take approximately two weeks for your correspondence to be added to the Commission's electronic database, but a hard copy will be available in the Commission's public reference room within a week. If you have Internet access, you can view the entire record on our web site at one of the following addresses:

<https://gulfoss.fcc.gov/cgi-bin/ws.exe/prod/ecfs/comsrch.hts>

<http://gulfoss.fcc.gov:8080/cgi-bin/ws.exe/prod/ecfs/comsrch.hts>

Once at one of these locations, enter the Common Carrier docket number, 99-249, in box number 1, labeled "Proceeding." Click on "Retrieve Document List" at the bottom of the page. A list of all the documents in the record will appear. You can click on any of the items to view that document.

Thank you again for your submission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lynne Milne".

Lynne Milne

12-25 20th St.
Fair Lawn NJ 07410
Aug. 21, 1999

Mr. Yog Varma, Dep. Chief
FCC Common Carrier Bureau
1919 M St NW
Washington DC 20554

Jane
(Jane Jackson) CP
Yog
8-27-99

Dear Sir:

I understand you are seeking public comment on long-distance minimum rates.

I am an infrequent caller. Over the past year my basic AT&T rate, billed by Bell-Atlantic, has gone from \$1.⁷⁸ bimonthly to \$3.⁵⁶ bimonthly to \$7.²⁸ monthly (all + tax).

Over a year and a half, my Cablevision bill, with no premium channels, has gone from \$30.⁶⁸ to \$33.⁷⁹ to \$35.⁴¹. If the Media One deal goes through, I expect increases of the same magnitude as the LD rates.

I feel I cannot give up these services (TV reception is dreadful w/o cable, telephone obviously needed), but I wonder

where this behemoth is going to stop. I'm not destitute, but I am retired and on a fixed income. Some of my friends are much worse off than I and they are in the same boat with these charges. I have come to hate the sight of Armstrong's face, smiling for all the security analysts.

The competition in the telephone industry is mainly benefitting people who can afford huge bills. From what I've read, when the per-minute charges go down, they talk longer. The competition in the Cable TV industry has never really been there and what there was is disappearing. Please see the attached clipping and see if you don't agree.

Very truly yours,

Barbara D. Gibbons

By BRIAN LOWRY

Special from the Los Angeles Times

Submitted for your approval: A man walks into a diner and orders bacon and eggs.

"Coming up," the waitress says, "and you also get a danish, waffle, cereal, and fruit cup."

"But I don't want any of that," the man replies warily.

"You don't have to eat them," she says. "You just have to pay for them."

No, he hasn't entered "The Twilight Zone," but rather the world of cable television.



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